



6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Reinforced Autoclaves Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**  
**ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL, BLAYDON**

You may have seen media coverage over the last few days and subsequently today, regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and the full listing of schools impacted. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; and, because it is weaker than regular concrete concerns have been raised in recent years about its long-term durability. It had an anticipated lifespan of 30 years at the time schools were built.

The Department for Education (DfE), on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, changed the guidance to schools on the management of RAAC and have, with immediate effect, taken a more precautionary approach. As you may have heard from News broadcasters and in the Press, as a result of the change in DfE approach, some schools are having to vacate areas within school buildings where RAAC has been identified, until arrangements can be made for approved safety mitigations to be put in place.

I am writing to inform you that, following a DfE-commissioned survey, it has been confirmed that there is RAAC in the Library at St Thomas More Catholic School, Blaydon. The School's and BWCET's overriding concern and priority is the safeguarding, safety and education of all our children. Therefore, this isolated area has been shut-down and is currently fully out-of-action until further investigation is conducted.

The rest of the school remains fully open to all students and the Library closure is not impacting on the day to day running of the school site.

The School and Trust will continue to keep staff, parents, carers and the wider community informed as RAAC plans develop.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Hurn', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr Nick Hurn, OBE  
CEO